Kissinger, Lon

From: Kissinger, Lon
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 12:34 PM
To: Brown, Katherine; Grepo-Grove, Gina; Fleming, Sheila
Cc: Thomas, Sally
Subject: RE: Draft Comments on the Seldovia Village Sampling Plan

Actually...I think what I've outlined could be a lot of work...

-----Original Message-----
From: Brown, Katherine
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 11:03 AM
To: Kissinger, Lon; Grepo-Grove, Gina; Fleming, Sheila
Cc: Thomas, Sally
Subject: RE: Draft Comments on the Seldovia Village Sampling Plan

Thank you so much Lon!

I've already advised Seldovia that ADEC's 1/2 of this QAPP is critical and we need it ASAP. These comments are very helpful and I'll pass them along. I think that they can fairly easily clarify the data gaps, the spatial relationships between harvest areas, sources of contamination, and sampling sites, approriate sample sizes, and the limited scope and applicability of this $75,000/1yr effort to characterize contaminants in 1 species of salmon.

It would be great, and I'm sure Seldovia would be willing and able if we have the funding, but I think a planning effort to guide the methodical collection of all the data needed to characterize risks posed by contaminants in Cook Inlet, and considering contaminant concentrations in other species, media, and areas, are well beyond the scope of this project, but could certainly be discussed in their report.

Thanks again!

Katherine
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From: Kissinger, Lon
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 10:11 AM
To: Grepo-Grove, Gina; Fleming, Sheila; Brown, Katherine
Subject: Draft Comments on the Seldovia Village Sampling Plan

Hi,

In general, I think that the objectives of this limited sampling effort need to be much better defined. The QAPP suggests that the current effort will support a large scale effort to characterize contaminants and human/environmental health impacts in Cook Inlet. The QAPP broadly identifies existing data. However, what's missing here is an identification of data gaps, what is needed to address those data gaps, and how this study will fit into an overall data collection plan. Ideally, there should be a planning effort to guide methodical collection of the data needed to characterize risks posed by contaminants in Cook Inlet.

Salmon, though an important food source, may not reflect regional contributions of contamination as well as other species with more limited home ranges. Sampling efforts may wish to consider other species. Additionally, if ecological risks are of concern, it would be good to consider contaminant concentrations for other salmon life stages in addition to or instead of adults (e.g. levels in eggs or juvenile salmonids).

Though spatial relationships between harvest areas and sources of contamination are mentioned, the QAPP should specifically evaluate these concerns in determining where samples are to be collected. Some consideration should also be given to any information on contaminant concentrations in other environmental media (e.g. water and sediment) that may be needed to understand why tissue levels are what they are.

Some consideration should also be given to data that will be needed to put Cook Inlet results in context. Specifically, what are levels of contaminants in samples from areas that are deemed to be less impacted by environmental contamination.

Some consideration should be given as to the numbers of samples required to characterize contaminant levels at specific locations. Compositing multiple fish will give more stable estimates of average contaminant concentrations. If variation in individual fish concentrations is to be characterized on a location specific basis, then at least six separate analyses should be prepared.

For this particular QAPP, a major concern I have are linkages between the ADEC and Axys labs and the sampling effort. The QAPP is totally inadequate without information typically included in a QAPP provided by an environmental laboratory (e.g. sample handling, preparation, sample storage, instrument calibration, data quality, etc.) Will analytical methods be capable of detecting contaminant levels of concern? What quantities of various types of fish tissue are needed? Can samples be analyzed in time to avoid holding time concerns?

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